

From: ["Thomas. Hattie" </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE:GROUP \(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT\)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=B1EBAFC79FA94F308D9F6EBB0424E75A-THOMAS.HATTIE>](mailto:Thomas.Hattie@EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE:GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=B1EBAFC79FA94F308D9F6EBB0424E75A-THOMAS.HATTIE)
To:
CC:
Date: 1/22/2014 3:37:31 PM
Subject: OPA Daily Digest 1/22/14

OPA Daily Digest for 01/22/14

Congressional Inquiries:

None

State and Local Government Inquiries:

Rep Bill Otto (Mo): 1/12/14 - Question on work being done at the Westlake Site. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (open)

Press Inquiries:

None

Environmental Stories:

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Bill McClellan: Playing in the creek - 1/22/14 - Brad and Greg played in Coldwater Creek when they were kids. How lucky it seemed to have their own mini-version of Mark Twain's mighty river. Or maybe not. http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/columns/bill-mcclellan/bill-mcclellan-playing-in-the-creek/article_c3c1f10b-70e1-5f44-966e-451a73830e6c.html

Des Moines Register - Grassley: Obama can stop proposed RFS cut - 1/22/14 - Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley said Tuesday that President Barack Obama must get involved in the debate over the country's ethanol policy or risk handing "a big victory" to the oil industry. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20140122/BUSINESS/301220046/0/NEWS04/>

Associated Press - Panel hears testimony about fracking, Kan. quakes - 1/21/14 - Geologists on Tuesday told a Kansas House committee that more seismic monitoring in the state could help determine if hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, is connected to earthquakes. <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/jan/21/house-panel-to-review-kansas-fracking-industry/>

Agriculture.com - RFS hearing set for Iowa this Thursday - 1/21/14 - This Thursday, Midwesterners who tried to get EPA to hold a field hearing on its proposal to reduce the Renewable Fuel Standard for 2014 will hold one anyway without the agency's official sanction. http://www.agriculture.com/news/policy/rfs-hearing-set-f-iowa-this-thursday_4-ar41281

Iowa Public Radio - Up Against Blend Wall, Ethanol's at a Crossroads - 1/21/14 - In 2013 the industry ran into a wall. The blend wall. And in 2014, the EPA is proposing that the industry take a step back that, some say, throws the future of renewable fuels in doubt. <http://iowapublicradio.org/post/against-blend-wall-ethanols-crossroads>

Iowa State Daily - Iowa Legislature asks to rollback proposed EPA mandate - 1/22/14 - The Iowa House and Senate approved a resolution last week calling on the federal government to abandon a proposal which would lower the required amount of renewable fuels used in transportation fuels. http://www.iowastatedaily.com/news/article_1b409e70-81fc-11e3-a2d4-0019bb2963f4.html

Roll Call - Commentary: EPA's Biofuels Proposal Creates National Security Risks - 1/22/14 - I call upon the Environmental Protection Agency to reconsider the proposed reduction targets and continue moving forward with robust policies that provide alternatives to our dangerous dependence on oil and strengthen the renewable fuels industry in America. http://www.rollcall.com/news/epas_biofuels_proposal_creates_national_security_risks_commentary-230260-1.html

WIBW Ch. 13 Topeka, Kan. - Kansas Communities Awarded \$4.4 Million In Federal Grants - 1/22/14 - The Kansas Department of Commerce has announced 10 Kansas communities will share \$4,484,000 in federal grants (most to support water infrastructure) through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. <http://www.wibw.com/home/headlines/Kansas-Communities-Awarded-44-Million-In-Federal-Grants-241346791.html>

Des Moines Register - Court to decide if solar energy installer is infringing on utilities' rights - 1/22/14 - The outcome of an Iowa Supreme Court case pitting electric companies against a Dubuque solar energy company will be watched nationally and may help shape the future of how solar energy is sold in the region. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20140122/NEWS/301220051/Court-to-decide-if-solar-energy-installer-is-infringing-on-utilities-rights>

The Turner Report (blog) - Tim Jones: EPA decision an attack on Missouri - 1/21/14 - "NSPS represents all that is wrong with Washington's overreach, and I plan to take advantage of this public comment period and share my concerns with the EPA. I'd encourage all Missourians to do the same, so they understand our concerns and complaints about this misguided regulation." <http://rturner229.blogspot.com/2014/01/tim-jones-epa-decision-attack-on.html>

KTIV Ch. 4 Sioux City, Iowa - EPA to start work on contaminated site in Norfolk, Nebraska (video) - 1/18/14 - Work will begin Monday, on removal of contaminated soils at a former gas plant in Norfolk, Nebraska. <http://www.ktiv.com/story/24491884/2014/01/19/epa-to-start-work-on-contaminated-site-in-norfolk-nebraska>

Midwest Energy News - In coal-reliant Missouri, 'market rush' leaves solar in limbo - 1/21/14 - A rebate program intended to make solar power more attractive in coal-dependent Missouri has become a victim of its own success. <http://www.midwestenergynews.com/2014/01/21/in-coal-reliant-missouri-market-rush-leaves-solar-in-limbo/>

Des Moines Register - Another View: Wind's outlook remains strong | Developing natural gas and renewable energy are good for Iowa and the U.S. - 1/22/14 - Iowa may not have natural gas reserves, but 75 percent of the state is suitable to generate energy from wind. Developing natural gas for use in heavy-duty trucks and wind for electricity make a solid partnership, for Iowa and the rest of America. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20140122/OPINION01/301220030/Another-View-Wind-s-outlook-remains-strong>

Des Moines Register - Iowa commission rejects appeal from business that wants to bury dead horses - 1/21/14 - Iowa environmental leaders rejected an appeal from a Tipton pet cemetery owner who is being fined \$10,000 for burying dead horses, a violation of state solid waste laws. <http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2014/01/21/iowa-commission-rejects-appeal-from-business-that-wants-to-bury-dead-horses/>

Quad-City Times - Iowa Supreme Court to hear solar power case - 1/22/14 - The Iowa Supreme Court is hearing a case that could shape the future of how solar power is sold in the state and region. Eagle Point Solar wants to install its solar systems on businesses or city buildings and then sell the electricity produced back to the entity. http://qctimes.com/news/state-and-regional/iowa/iowa-supreme-court-to-hear-solar-power-case/article_6adee81c-7db7-528f-a74c-97772a224159.html

Brownfield Ag News - The benefits of the cold winter (+audio) - 1/22/14 - Kentucky-based Syngenta agronomist Chuck Leonard says cold weather provide some benefits as we head into the 2014 growing season, including better translocation. <http://brownfieldagnews.com/2014/01/22/benefits-cold-winter>

AgWeb - Assembling a Manure Spill Response Kit - 1/21/14 - Accidental spills can happen before spreading manure onto a field. Having a manure spill kit on-hand can make a lot of difference for neighbor relations. http://www.agweb.com/article/assembling_a_manure_spill_response_kit_NAA_University_News_Release/

Wall Street Journal - High-Tech Monitors Often Miss Oil Pipeline Leaks - 1/21/14 - Energy and pipeline companies like to point out they use high-tech sensors and remote-monitoring systems to automatically alert engineers when a pipeline starts to leak oil. However, most leaks usually aren't discovered that way, according to a review of four years of liquid pipeline accident records. <http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303754404579310920956322040?mg=reno64-wsj&url=http%3A%2F%2Fonline.wsj.com%2Farticle%2FSB10001424052702303754404579310920956322040.html>

GizMag - PLEASED project working on "plant-borgs" to act as environmental biosensors - 1/20/14 - Many claim that talking to plants helps them grow faster. But what if the plants could talk back? That's what the EU-funded PLants Employed As Sensing Devices (PLEASED) project is hoping to achieve by creating plant cyborgs, or "plant-borgs." <http://www.gizmag.com/pleased-project-plantborgs-biosensors/30531/>

AviationPros - Delta Wants Out Of Federal Quotas To Blend Renewable Fuels - 1/20/14 - At issue is an EPA standard that forces U.S. refiners to annually increase the amount of biofuels into the nation's diesel and gasoline supply. <http://www.aviationpros.com/news/11296859/when-delta-air-lines-bought-a-philadelphia-refinery-last-year-it-hoped-to-save-on-jet-fuel>

National Journal - EPA Chief on Davos: 'This Is Not Usually My Crowd' - 1/21/14 - Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy is looking forward to being a fish out of water in Davos, Switzerland this week, where she'll promote the White House climate change agenda at the World Economic Forum meeting. <http://www.nationaljournal.com/energy/epa-chief-on-davos-this-is-not-usually-my-crowd-20140121>

National Journal – Chu Charged Up By Batteries – 1/21/14 - With his fourth new gig since stepping down as Energy secretary last April, Steven Chu Charged Up by Batteries - 1/21/14 - u is picking up where he left off on a mission to develop more-powerful, longer-lasting batteries. <http://www.nationaljournal.com/daily/chu-charged-up-by-batteries-20140121>

National Journal - Outside Energy Experts Question EPA Reliance on 'Unproven' Clean-Coal Technology - 1/21/14 - The Obama administration should not depend on so-called "clean-coal" technology to roll out its climate-change rules for power plants, according to a new report released Tuesday that was done in consultation with the White House. <http://www.nationaljournal.com/daily/outside-energy-experts-question-epa-reliance-on-unproven-clean-coal-technology-20140121>

National Journal - Battle Over EPA Smog Rule Intensifies - 1/22/14 - Environmental and public health groups want a federal court to force the Environmental Protection Agency to issue tougher standards for smog-forming pollution. <http://www.nationaljournal.com/energy/battle-over-epa-smog-rule-intensifies-20140122>

Washington Examiner - Environmental groups file court motion seeking EPA action on ozone standard - 1/22/14 - Several public health and environmental groups filed a motion Tuesday in federal court in an attempt to force the Environmental Protection Agency to propose delayed standards for ozone, which causes smog. <http://washingtonexaminer.com/environmental-groups-file-court-motion-seeking-epa-action-on-ozone-standard/article/2542641>

Planet Ark - Changes for Obama climate goals do not need congressional OK: report - 1/22/14 - A group of business leaders, energy experts and former government leaders believes that the Obama administration could tackle climate change by taking measures that do not require congressional approval, according to a report released on Tuesday. <http://planetark.org/enviro-news/item/70911>

Los Angeles Times - New virus linked to bee colony collapse disorder - 1/21/14 - A rapidly mutating virus has leaped from plants to honeybees, where it is reproducing and contributing to the collapse of colonies vital to the multibillion-dollar agricultural industry, according to a new study. <http://www.latimes.com/science/sciencenow/la-sci-sn-virus-bee-colony-collapse-20140120.0,3775756.story>

Yale Environment 360 - New Virus Associated With Massive Bee Die-Offs, Researchers Report - 1/22/14 - A rapidly mutating virus may be partially responsible for the massive bee die-offs known as colony collapse disorder (CCD), which has wiped out a third of commercial bee colonies annually for the past seven years. http://e360.yale.edu/digest/new_virus_associated_with_massive_bee_die-offs_researchers_report/4054/

Environmental Leader - China's Industrial Air Pollution Reaching US - 1/22/14 - Air pollution generated by China's export industry is making its way across the Pacific Ocean and contributing to smog in the US, according to findings by UC Irvine and other researchers. <http://www.environmentalleader.com/2014/01/22/chinas-industrial-air-pollution-reaching->

[us/](#)

Hill Heat (blog) - Commentary: Obama Does Not Believe Global Warming a Civil-War or World-War-II Scale Crisis - 1/22/14 - Barack Obama President Barack Obama evidently does not believe that fossil-fueled global warming is a nation-threatening crisis, despite repeated scientific warnings that a full-scale mobilization must be enacted now to avert global catastrophe. <http://www.hillheat.com/articles/2014/01/21/commentary-obama-does-not-believe-global-warming-a-civil-war-or-world-war-ii-scale-crisis>

GigaOm - The power grid is starting to look more like the internet and that's a good thing - 1/21/14 - he electricity grid has slowly been adopting some of the technologies that have been mainstays of the internet, like decentralized computing and smarter distributed systems. <http://gigaom.com/2014/01/21/the-power-grid-is-starting-to-look-more-like-the-internet-and-thats-a-good-thing/>

Bloomberg - Climate Protection May Cut World GDP 4% by 2030, UN Says - 1/16/14 - The cost of holding rising temperatures to safe levels may reach 4 percent of economic output by 2030, according to a draft United Nations report designed to influence efforts to draft a global-warming treaty. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-01-16/climate-protection-may-cost-4-of-world-gdp-by-2030.html>

NBC News - Regulators knew about risky transport of oil before train crashes, documents show - 1/16/14 - A spate of fiery train crashes has spurred regulators to take a closer look at the booming movement of crude oil by rail. But regulators have known about issues like overloading and mislabeling that may increase the risk of shipping the oil since as far back as the fall of 2011. http://investigations.nbcnews.com/_news/2014/01/16/22255104-regulators-knew-about-risky-transport-of-oil-before-train-crashes-documents-show

Inside Climate - Does Keystone XL Have a Place in the Oil-by-Rail Safety Debate? - 1/17/14 - The realities of the oil market make it clear that even if the Keystone and similar pipelines were operating, they would not be supplanting rail. <http://insideclimatenews.org/news/20140117/does-keystone-xl-have-place-oil-rail-safety-debate>

BNA - EPA Reschedules Hearing on Power Plant Rule - 1/21/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency will now hold a public hearing Feb. 6 (not Jan. 28) on its proposed new source performance standards for carbon dioxide emissions from new fossil fuel-fired power plants. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=40114700&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e5k8q5j9&split=0

BNA - EPA Carbon Regulations Could Provide Opportunity for Bill, Sen. Whitehouse Says - 1/21/14 - Forthcoming Environmental Protection Agency regulations on power plant emissions could renew hope for passage of a bill to address climate change because legislation might be seen as “the lesser of two evils.” http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=40114672&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e5h2j5u0&split=0

BNA - Podesta ‘Surprised’ by Advocates’ Letter Questioning Obama on Climate Commitment - 1/21/14 - A senior adviser to President Barack Obama said he was “surprised” by environmental groups questioning the president's commitment to addressing climate change, particularly given the intense opposition to the Climate Action Plan by some members of Congress. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=40114677&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e5h7r1r2&split=0

BNA - Administration Weighing Executive Authority To Help Finance, Promote Renewable Energy - 1/21/14 - The Obama administration is considering how to use executive authority to help finance and promote renewable energy development, Heather Zichal, former top energy and climate aide to President Barack Obama, said Jan. 21. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=40114690&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e5k2e0b7&split=0

BNA - Climate Caucus Founder Whitehouse Pins Hopes on Concerted Group Action - 1/21/14 - Bloomberg BNA reporter Anthony Adragna sat down with Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) in his office Jan. 17 to discuss the climate change agenda in the coming year. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=40114679&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e5j9q7y7&split=0

Inside EPA - EPA Grants More Waivers From Strict Incinerator Rules, Worrying Advocates - 1/21/14 - EPA is exempting additional substances and, for the first time, a sewage sludge gasification facility, from its strict incinerator regulations. <http://insideepa.com/201401212458801/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-grants-more-waivers-from-strict-incinerator-rules-worrying-advocates/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - EPA Lays Out Superfund Streamlining Actions Under Strained Budget - 1/22/14 - Facing continuing budget constraints to the Superfund program, EPA is undertaking streamlining actions to revise aspects of the Superfund cleanup process, some of which track with recommendations made by a landmark 2012 National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report. <http://insideepa.com/Environmental-Policy-Alert/Environmental-Policy-Alert-01/22/2014/epa-lays-out-superfund-streamlining-actions-under-strained-budget/menu-id-132.html>

Inside EPA - OMB Said To Seek EPA Clarity On When Waters Have 'Significant' Nexus - 1/22/14 - White House budget officials are reportedly asking EPA to clarify whether the "significance" of a connection, or nexus, between smaller waterbodies and larger downstream waters marks a technical or policy issue. <http://insideepa.com/Environmental-Policy-Alert/Environmental-Policy-Alert-01/22/2014/omb-said-to-seek-epa-clarity-on-when-waters-have-significant-nexus/menu-id-132.html>

Inside EPA - As EPA Eyes Oil Spill Rule Rewrite, Citizens Coalition Steps Up Pressure - 1/22/14 - EPA is preparing revisions governing the authorization of oil spill response agents, but citizen activists say even more changes are necessary to address how spill response agents interact with tar sands and other non-conventional fuels during spills. <http://insideepa.com/Environmental-Policy-Alert/Environmental-Policy-Alert-01/22/2014/as-epa-eyes-oil-spill-rule-rewrite-citizens-coalition-steps-up-pressure/menu-id-132.html>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

2/5/14 – Regional Tribal Operations Committee, Lenexa, Kan., Wolfgang Brandner, 7381

2/11/14 – Agribusiness Showcase Conference, Des Moines, Kris Lancaster, 7557

2/12/14 – Iowa Legislation Availability Session, Des Moines. Sarah Hatch, 7199

2/20/14 – Air & Waste Management Association Mid-West Chapter Annual Conference, Overland Park, Kan., Becky Weber, 7487

DRA:

2/5/14 – Regional Tribal Operations Committee, Lenexa, Kan., Wolfgang Brandner, 7381

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

None

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

None

ENSV

None

PLMG**RA/OPA**

None

SUPR

None

WWPD

1/21-23/14 – Annual Kansas State Revolving Fund Review, Topeka, Kan. Contacts: Nancy Healy, 7713, Sabre Germano, 7026

1/21-24/14 – Groundwater Protection Council Training Conference, New Orleans, La. Contact: David Garrett, 7159

1/21-24/14 – Ground Water Protection Council Annual Technical Forum and Underground Injection Control National Technical Workgroup meeting, New Orleans, La. Contacts: Kurt Hildebrandt, 7413, David Garrett, 7159

1/23/14 – Missouri Water Classification - Use Attainability Analysis Protocol Workgroup Meeting with Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City, Mo. Contacts: Bob Angelo, 7060, Ann Lavaty, 7370

1/23-25/14 – Big River Task Force Meeting, Columbia, Mo, continuing to Big River Watershed Workshop, Lake Ozark, Mo. Contacts: Jeannette Schafer, 7297, Terri Brink, 7337

1/28/14 – Missouri Nutrient Reduction Committee Meeting with Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Bob Angelo, 7060

2/6/14 – Missouri Clean Water Commission Meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Bob Angelo, 7060

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